IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (previously presented) A method for collating data in a distributed computer network having non-synchronous compute nodes, said method comprising:

        receiving a plurality of sets of data packets from a plurality of non-synchronous compute nodes physically separated from each other, wherein each of said sets of data packets is provided by one of said non-synchronous compute nodes;

        inserting said data packets into a software container according to user predetermined rules for determining a logical order for said data packets;

        locating common groups of said data packets within said software container according to said user predetermined rules;

        protecting said software container against incomplete groups of said data packets due to system anomalies or quality of service within said distributed computer network according to a grouping criteria; and

        outputting said data packets in respective logical groups that represent an aggregate packet from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

2.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said inserting further includes inserting said data packets into said software container according to individual packet time reference.

3.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 2, wherein said locating further includes locating common groups of said data packets within said software container according to individual packet time reference.

4.   (previously presented) The method of Claim 3, wherein said outputting further includes outputting said data packets in respective logical groups that represent time-synchronous packets from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

5.   (previously presented) An apparatus for collating data in a distributed computer network having non-synchronous compute nodes, said apparatus comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of sets of data packets from a plurality of non-synchronous compute nodes physically separated from each other, wherein each of said sets of data packets is provided by one of said non-synchronous compute nodes;

means for inserting said data packets into a software container according to user predetermined rules for determining a logical order for said data packets;

means for locating common groups of said data packets within said software container according to said user predetermined rules;

means for protecting said software container against incomplete groups of said data packets due to system anomalies or quality of service within said distributed computer network according to a grouping criteria; and

means for outputting said data packets in respective logical groups that represent an aggregate packet from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

6.   (original) The apparatus of Claim 5, wherein said means for inserting further includes means for inserting said data packets into a software container according to individual packet time reference.

7.   (original) The apparatus of Claim 6, wherein said means for locating further includes means for locating common groups of said data packets within said container according to individual packet time reference.

8.   (previously presented) The apparatus of Claim 7, wherein said means for outputting further includes means for outputting said data packets in respective logical groups that represent time-synchronous packets from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

9.   (currently amended) A recordable type ~~computer storage~~ medium having a computer program product for collating data in a distributed computer network having non-synchronous compute nodes, said recordable type ~~computer storage~~ medium comprising:

    computer program code for receiving a plurality of sets of data packets from a plurality of non-synchronous compute nodes physically separated from each other, wherein each of said sets of data packets is provided by one of said non-synchronous compute nodes;

    computer program code for inserting said data packets into a software container according to user predetermined rules for determining a logical order for said data packets;

    computer program code for locating common groups of said data packets within said software container according to said user predetermined rules;

computer program code for protecting said software container against incomplete groups of said data packets due to system anomalies or quality of service within said distributed computer network according to a grouping criteria; and

computer program code for outputting said data packets in respective logical groups that represent an aggregate packet from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.

10.   (currently amended) The recordable type computer-storage medium of Claim 9, wherein said computer program code for inserting further includes computer program code for inserting said data packets into a software container according to individual packet time reference.

11.   (currently amended) The recordable type computer-storage medium of Claim 10, wherein said computer program code for locating further includes computer program code for locating common groups of said data packets within said container according to individual packet time reference.

12.   (currently amended) The recordable type computer-storage medium of Claim 11, wherein said computer program code for outputting further includes computer program code for outputting said data packets in respective logical groups that represent time-synchronous packets from said non-synchronous compute nodes after said grouping criteria has been met.